

RESOLUTION NUMBER 94

WHEREAS, the free and fair exercise of voting rights by qualified individuals, are issues of national importance that must receive continuing attention and careful examination by elected officials at every level of government; and

WHEREAS, voting and participating in timely elections is a fundamental right that serves as the foundation of the freedoms and opportunities that Americans enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of the opportunity and right to vote as well as democratic representation is essential to the welfare and security of a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the separate and unequal nature of scheduling special elections does damage to American democracy, our election system, and the values the people of the City of St. Louis hold dear; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, representing a jurisdiction of people who have voting rights; pay federal, state, and local taxes; and serve in the U.S. military on the same basis as other Americans, has a special responsibility to express its collective voice on issues of voting rights and election administration that affect the fairness of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, to maintain public confidence in the integrity of the elections conducted by the City of St. Louis, the election authorities will need to exercise and sustain vigilance on issues of voting rights and election administration, including the timely scheduling of special elections; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis is proud of its long and distinguished tradition of fighting for, protecting, and preserving the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Missouri should ensure the timely scheduling of special elections and the right to vote with one standard; and

WHEREAS, the Governor gave a speech stating that to find Democrats in Missouri, “You have to go places where nobody wants to live anymore”; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of people live in the City of St. Louis and more people continue to move to the City of St. Louis every day, expecting democratically-elected representation at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has a diverse constituency that requires representation in the Missouri House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, preserving a legislative district’s elected representation in the Missouri House of Representatives benefits the citizens of that district; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Missouri already has called special elections fill vacant legislative seats in Missouri.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis Board of Aldermen affirms its strong support for the timely call of a special election in the 65th Legislative District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Louis Board of Aldermen strongly supports its citizens' right to vote and participate in timely elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Aldermen of the city of St. Louis calls upon Governor Matt Blunt to timely schedule the special election for the 65th Legislative District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis calls up Governor Matt Blunt to schedule the special election of the 65th Legislative District in a fashion similar to other recent special election calls.

Introduced this the 18th day of July, 2007 by:

Honorable William Waterhouse, 24th Ward

Adopted this the _____ day of July, 2007 as attested by:

Clerk, Board of Aldermen

President, Board of Aldermen